

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN
CARRIE MEEK

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with the pinnacle of respect that I rise today to pay tribute to retired Congresswoman Carrie Meek.

For the past 10 years, I have had the distinct honor and privilege to not only know Carrie, but to serve in this great body with her, all the while being the gracious beneficiary of her wealth of spirit and depth of character.

Only in America can the granddaughter of a slave and the daughter of a former sharecropper believe that she can achieve and conquer all that presents itself in opposition to her dreams.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated in one of his fireside chats, "The true test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." Carrie is the embodiment of that quote.

She has fought with relentless effort for the people of the 17th Congressional District of Florida and has served them and her country well.

Carrie Meek has set the stage and perpetuated the legacy of political astuteness for all of us, but particularly for African-American women everywhere.

Carrie is truly a political pioneer and I and this legislative body have been, without a doubt, made the better for having just been in her element.

HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union has under consideration the bill (H.R. 534) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human cloning:

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to speak on behalf of the Greenwood Amendment H.R. 534. This has to do with research to help save human lives. It's not a question of human cloning. The process we're talking about—therapeutic cloning—takes embryos, many of which are fertilized in a laboratory petri dish. They are saved. The cells are separated so they can continue to grow. We learn about a mechanism to better understand tissues in the body. There will be an ability to cure diseases such as Parkinson's, Diabetes, Heart Muscle Disease, Chronic Liver Disease—the list is endless.

So please don't stop this exciting area of breakthrough new science. Don't confuse the issue with reproductive cloning. Hammers are used to build a building, but they can also be used as a lethal weapon. Because a hammer can be used as a murder weapon, we don't automatically outlaw it. Please support the Greenwood Amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN
SCHOOL BUS ROUTE SAFETY RE-
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise to introduce companion legislation to a bill being introduced by Senator JEFF BINGAMAN in the Senate today. I am extremely pleased to be joined in introducing this legislation, the Indian School Bus Route Safety Reauthorization Act of 2003, by Congressman JIM MATHESON of Utah and Congressman RICK RENZI of Arizona, both of whom represent portions of the Navajo Nation in their Congressional districts.

This legislation is of great importance to our three states—specifically to the children and residents of the Navajo Nation, and the counties into which the Navajo Nation's boundaries extend. In New Mexico these counties are McKinley and San Juan Counties, and prior to 1998 they were responsible for maintaining the roads used by county school buses that stretch into the reservation to transport the children of the Navajo Nation to and from the county schools. Although there is nothing unique about counties funding and maintaining the roads in their jurisdiction, this particular case of the counties being responsible for the upkeep of the roads that ran into the Navajo Nation was extremely rare, and seems to be the only situation of this kind throughout the United States. This put an enormous burden on McKinley and San Juan County officials, and oftentimes resulted in impassable roads, which, in turn, resulted in children missing school because the buses were unable to pick them up.

In 1998, however, Senator Bingaman was successful in acquiring funds through the Indian School Bus Route Safety Act for the counties in New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona to assist them in facing this particularly burdensome responsibility. Today, we are proud to introduce the reauthorization of this legislation, which is set to expire very soon, to provide further assistance to the counties and children of the Navajo Nation. This bill authorizes funds totaling \$24 million for Fiscal Years 2004 through 2009 to be split equally among New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. The breakdown of the total amount of funding is \$3 million each year for FY2004 and 2005, \$4 million each year for FY2006 and 2007, and \$5 million each year for FY2008 and 2009.

These critical funds will provide much-needed assistance to the counties, and will help put an end to the shameful situation of children missing school simply because of impassable roads due to lack of maintenance. I am extremely hopeful that we can either pass this measure, or include it as part of the TEA-21 reauthorization bill and provide further assistance to the children of the Navajo Nation and our respective states. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO MAKE
LEAF TOBACCO AN ELIGIBLE
COMMODITY FOR THE MARKET
ACCESS PROGRAM

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from other tobacco producing states to introduce a bill to put an end to discrimination against tobacco farmers. For almost eight years, hard-working, God-fearing, taxpaying tobacco farmers have been denied access to the funds provided by the federal Market Access Program, commonly known as MAP.

Under MAP, agricultural industry trade associations, cooperatives, and state or regional trade groups each year are invited to submit proposals to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to conduct approved foreign market development projects for various U.S. agricultural, fishery and forestry products. Examples include consumer promotions, market research, technical assistance, and trade servicing. MAP funds have been used to promote a wide range of products from sunflower seeds to catfish and cotton to hops for use in making beer.

Since 1993 USDA has been prohibited from using MAP funds to promote tobacco leaf sales overseas. This is patently unfair, and it is time for this discrimination to end. The future of American agriculture is tied to international trade. Currently, 25% of farmers' gross income comes from exports. The futures of thousands of Tar Heel tobacco farm families depend on exports, and I am not going to stand by and watch other commodities benefit from federal funds to access these markets while tobacco farmers are left out in the cold.

It is high time that tobacco is treated like the legal product that it is, and this legislation is a step in the right direction. I call on President Bush, Secretary Veneman, and my colleagues to support this bill and give our struggling tobacco farm families an opportunity to not just survive, but thrive.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AQUATIC
INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today a bill that is a critical component in our efforts to combat aquatic invasive species—the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act. This legislation creates a comprehensive research program that supports federal, state and local efforts to prevent invasive species from ever entering our waterways, as well as detection, control and eradication efforts once they are here. It complements a bill introduced today by Mr. GILCREST in the House and Mr. LEVIN in the Senate, to reauthorize the National Invasive Species Act. This legislation is a critical component in our battle against these harmful and extremely damaging pests.

In undertaking this effort, I have found that many people wonder—"What is an invasive